

DOCUMENT MICROFILM SERVICE

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

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CLASSIFICATION

FEB 9 1954

TO Chief of Mission, Frankfurt

DATE

FROM Chief, EE

SUBJECT **GENERAL** Operational/CART
SPECIFIC Ferdinand KARPIK, Possible Polish Agent

SYNOPSIS: Information at hand indicates that the Polish Communist Party has used the export of Polish hams to raise funds for the Party treasury. This information may explain the activities of Ferdinand KARPIK, Munich Polish ham trader and former ODPAL source. CLS is requested to query ODPAL and POB may pass some of this data to ZIPPER, which is interested in KARPIK.

1. Ferdinand KARPIK, Polish refugee now running the Leuchtmittel trading firm in Munich with a branch office in Frankfurt, is an object of some intelligence interest in Germany. A recent Fulbright dispatch requested traces on both KARPIK and Ferdinand WESTERMARK, owner of the Atlas and Frigalment firms with offices in Munich and elsewhere. WESTERMARK is a noted East-West trader and was one of several businessmen who visited Moscow to attend an economic conference. He was once an Abwehr courier in Spain. ZIPPER is at present interested in both KARPIK and WESTERMARK.
2. A great deal is known about KARPIK and WESTERMARK here. Traces were sent out in EGLM-526, addressed to P/S. KARPIK was, until 1943, a regular ODPAL source, handled during that era by Randolph K. Stone, a former ODPAL officer. ODPAL dropped KARPIK in 1943 because of compromise. He was considered to be a good source and maintained contact with Stone long after their official connection ceased. KARPIK's fortune was founded on the fact that he had the sole franchise for the sale of Polish hams in West Germany, and he was well acquainted with Polish government representatives in Germany, including Pavel KOT, the Polish trade representative in Frankfurt up until about 1952, with whom he had many official dealings. KARPIK was also a friend of Dr. Jmu SOMMERHORN, the press referent for Franz BLUCHER, Vice-Chancellor of Germany and formerly Marshall Plan

SPS

Minister/

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ECQM-13614
page 2

Minister in Bonn. On one occasion, in 1951, KARPIK told Stone of a conference he attended between SOMMERMAN and Dr. Emil HOFFMANN, notorious East-West trader, in which HOFFMANN tried to persuade SOMMERMAN to help him arrange a meeting between Vice-Chancellor BLUMBERG and Soviet political adviser SEWYONOV. We are unable to draw any earth-shaking conclusions from this report, but we have always been assured that KARPIK had been a good ODOPAL source.

3. The latest news we have, which links KARPIK with Polish Communist skulduggery though not necessarily espionage, comes from AVIATRASS, a Polish diplomat who defected in the Western Hemisphere in 1953 and who was very knowledgeable on Communist Party matters. This source gave information which links the export and foreign distribution of Polish hams with a longstanding scheme for swelling the treasury of the Polish Communist Party. According to source, the Polish Communist Party was out of funds after World War II and resorted to black marketing within Poland and sharp practices in foreign trade to squeeze money for the Party. Polish Communist customs officials abetted the smuggling into Poland of watches and other valuable items which were sold on the market and the proceeds placed in the Party treasury. Source states definitely that the Party placed one of its men in the office which controlled the export of Polish hams. For example, the sale of such hams in the United States was controlled by the Atalanta Company, run by George (Przegorz) ROSENBERG-MAPEHAK, a Leftist Pole who lived in France. In the case of the Atalanta Company, the foreign distributor not only paid for the hams but had to kick back part of his profits to the Polish Communist Party. Source states that this kickback practice ceased when the Polish Communist Party eliminated all opposition and began to run the government alone. From then on, he said, the ham exports were strictly legitimate business.
4. If AVIATRASS information is correct, it would be logical to presume that KARPIK's ham franchise was given him for a similar purpose and that he engaged for a number of years in a scheme to help finance the Polish Communist Party. What else he may have done, and whether he is still doing any of these things, is a matter for conjecture.
5. For the present, we would like CLS to pass this information along to ODOPAL headquarters, telling them that our traces on KARPIK reveal that he was once their agent and that we know also that he was handled by Randolph K. Stone. We suggest that ODOPAL review the KARPIK operation with this new factor in mind and we would like to have as much information about KARPIK as they will give us.
6. Pullach may pass the new information about Polish ham exports to ZIPPER and tell ZIPPER that we think KARPIK is a very interesting target indeed.

In the long/

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